

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
08 December 2020

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: 2nd^T QUARTER MONITORING REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR 2020 - 21

REPORT OF: THE CONTROLS, RISK AND PERFORMANCE MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT COUNCIL / BUILD THRIVING AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES / RESPOND TO CHALLENGES TO THE ENVIRONMENT / ENABLE AN ENTERPRISING AND CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY / SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF GOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOMES

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This monitoring report provides a 2nd quarter update on the delivery of the key projects for 20/21, first identified to the Committee in March 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That delivery against the key projects for 20/21 be noted and commented on by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To enable achievements against the key projects for 2020/21 to be considered

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1. There are no alternative options as this is a monitoring report.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS





- 5.1. No external consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of this report as it is a monitoring report. Members will, however, be aware that a report setting out the key projects was brought to this Committee on 17 March 2020.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. This report provides details on the status of the key projects for 20/21. It does not include any projects initiated after the document was agreed and is not a full report on all the projects that the Council is undertaking
- 7.2. This report summarises the status of each of the key projects. The following symbols have been used to summarise progress.

Status key	
	Project Halted / funding not available/ Extremely Late
	Project behind original due date/ unlikely to hit original due date.
	Project not due for completion in 2018/19 or has not reached due date
-	Project Pending
	Project Completed.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. The 2nd Quarter monitoring report against key projects for 2020/21 is included in Appendix A.
- 8.2. Appendix A includes the original milestones which were reported to this Committee in March 2020 and progress made against those actions. In addition, updates may have been provided to Executive Members and where relevant through the Members Information Service. Progress against some, will also have been monitored through the Capital monitoring reports to the Finance Audit and Risk Committee and to Cabinet.
- 8.3. For Q2, 14 projects are being reported, 9 with Green Status, 3 Amber, 1 Completed project and 1 project currently showing as pending.
- 8.4. **The Examination and Adoption of the Local Plan- Amber** – All the Hearing Sessions scheduled to be held over three weeks commencing on 28 September 2020 were postponed pending the outcome of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 8 October. Following the outcome of the meeting, the hearings have now been scheduled to commence on 23 November 2020 for three consecutive weeks.
- 8.5. **Development of a Crematorium in North Hertfordshire - Amber** – The appeal hearing scheduled for 13 May 2020 was cancelled due to Covid19. A further hearing scheduled

for 18 November was also cancelled by the Planning Inspectorate. A new Inquiry date has been set for 22/02/2021. In the meantime, the Statement of Common Ground and Hearing Statement have both been updated to reflect current circumstances and the impact of the virus.

- 8.6. **Designating Air Quality Management areas in Hitchin – Amber** – Due to the current Pandemic, Officer time has been focussed on the response to, and the recovery from this situation. However, some work is still ongoing on a Hitchin Pilot for EV charging through the local MP, a DEFRA bid for funding for a District Wide EV feasibility study, and charging points for new Homes embedded in the planning process.
- 8.7. **Churchgate – Pending** – Officers continue to explore the options around Churchgate, with a report back to Full Council in due course.
- 8.8. Updates on Brexit continue to be incorporated into the regular monitoring reports for 2020/21. Whilst not a traditionally defined project for the Council, it was decided that this would provide the best mechanism to monitor key issues and risk and report back on any actions undertaken

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. No direct legal implications arise from this report. Legal implications for the projects listed in Appendix A are considered as part of those projects and will include (but are not limited to) governance, property, planning and contractual issues. Under the Local Government Act 2000 there is a legal requirement for Councils operating Executive arrangements to appoint an overview and scrutiny committee with remit to review decisions and other actions.
- 9.2. Overview and Scrutiny's terms of reference include at paragraph 6.2.7(s) of the Constitution "to review performance against the Council's agreed priorities and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or service areas". This report gives the Committee an opportunity to comment on progress made against the projects that have been identified for delivery against the Council's objectives.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are no specific revenue implications.
- 10.2. The actions identified were resourced through the corporate business planning process cycle for 2020/21 that was undertaken in 2019/20. A number of these projects formed part of the Council's capital programme for 2020/21.

- 10.3 The Council continues to face difficult spending decisions in view of the reduction in government support in future years and the availability of funding continues to impact on the projects that can be undertaken.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. The Lead Officer for each project is responsible for identifying any risks to the successful delivery of the Project
- 11.2. Some of these major projects have been identified as Corporate Risks for the Council and these are monitored by Risk Management Group and the Finance Audit and Risk Committee. These include:
- Local Plan
 - Improve use of Council Assets
 - Brexit

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2. By reporting delivery against the key projects for 2020/21 this provides a means to monitor whether the council are meeting the stated outcomes of the district priorities, its targets or delivering accessible and appropriate services to the community to meet different people's needs. This assists the Council to fulfil a number of obligations arising from the Public Sector Equality Duty.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and "go local" requirements do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report. Environmental Impact Assessments will be undertaken where required for individual projects.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1.1 There are no additional human resource implications arising from this monitoring report. The resources needed to deliver projects should be considered through the Corporate Business Planning process.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix A – 2nd Quarter Monitoring against Key Projects for 2020/2021

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 None.